ish since the University building—narrow and a quarter of a mile long, its whole façade consisting of windows overlooking broad University Avenue—was utterly unfit to serve as a fort.

"Does the S-D party intend to cancel the night meeting?" shouted the Caucasian.

I offered the first idea that came to me: "We shall not cancel the meeting but we will minimize the danger of bloodshed. We will prevent panic and disband if necessary."

Before I could elaborate this plan, a bearded student unknown to me introduced himself as a former officer, a veteran of the Russo-Japanese War, and explained that my plan envisaged, in military terms, preparations for an orderly retreat. In view of the peculiarities of the terrain, we must prepare as many emergency exits as possible and be ready to direct comparatively small groups to these exits and disperse them through the streets at the rear of the University. With due preparation, he said, we could evacuate some twenty thousand in less than fifteen minutes, and we could get that time through negotiations at the main entrance even after an assault on the University had been ordered.

Nikolsky, the bearded student, sounded like a man who knew his business and was used to giving orders. My proposal that he be charged with the defense of the University building was accepted, and he immediately announced enrollment of volunteers in an Academic Legion. He gave the organization a military appearance by setting up headquarters, liaison officers, dispatch carriers, and so on, but actually it was a harmless organization of ushers with armbands of different colors and without weapons.

At eight o'clock a crowd began to assemble. Members of the Council warned people as they entered, "This meeting may end in a clash with the troops. Wouldn't you rather stay away?"

The workers took the warning in good humor. "You are talking about Trepov's order not to spare cartridges? He won't have enough cartridges for all of us."

The crowd—perhaps fifteen thousand—was not quite so large as usual, but its spirit was excellent. I spoke at least ten times. The topics varied according to the desires of the audience, but my effort was concentrated on one purpose—to strengthen self-confidence and discipline in the crowd.

After ten o'clock, troops began to appear before the University. Cossacks, foot soldiers, and cavalry detachments formed a broad semicircle in front of the building. Outside this semicircle there was continuous movement of considerable forces. Following it on a large map, Nikolsky said to me, "They are assembling their forces."

Cossacks galloped in front of the building; a detachment of ar-